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January 6, 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. LADD
MR. NICHOLS
MR. ROSEN

4:48

Mr. Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary-designate of the Department of Agriculture, called me today and wondered if we were ready to report on the names he had submitted for investigation. He stated he was particularly interested in [redacted] and I told him this would be completed within the next day. I gave him the status of the rest of the investigations as follows:

[redacted] - in dictation today
[redacted] - in dictation today
[redacted] - still pending
[redacted] - under investigation
[redacted] - still under investigation
[redacted] - still under investigation
[redacted] - still under investigation
[redacted] - coming through today
still pending

I told Mr. Benson I would expedite those which are pending and would send copies of the investigations to him and to Governor Adams. Mr. Benson said Clarence M. Ferguson's particularly should go to Governor Adams because he was Assistant Secretary. Mr. Benson stated he was presently in the World Building on K Street, Room 201 and I told him I would have the material sent to him there.

Very truly yours,

JEH

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Tolson
Ladd
Nichols
Belmont
Clegg
Glavin
Harbo
Rosen
Tracy
Laughlin
Mohr
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

J EH:mpd

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 10:55 AM
DATE 1-7-53
BY

RECORDED - 44

27 - 54679-79

28 JAN 19 1953

60

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

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January 15, 1953

R1-1

5:16

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. LADD
MR. NICHOLS

I called [redacted] who stated that Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Agriculture-Designate, had requested him to give me three or four names of individuals on whom he would like to have checks made. These names are as follows:

[redacted]

G.I.R.-6

[redacted] stated that he and Mr. Benson were also not sure whether or not the Bureau had a cross file on people by Departments in the Government who are of questionable loyalty. I told [redacted] that such information was in our files indexed according to the names of the individuals and we did not carry such information under the various Departments. I stated if he wanted any such information on a particular individual or individuals we would have to have their names in order to supply the information. [redacted] then stated that as he understood it it was necessary for them to supply the names of anyone whom they might think was of questionable loyalty and I stated that was correct and upon receipt of such names we would be very glad to make any checks for them. [redacted] stated that Mr. Benson was very concerned regarding the loyalty of the individuals employed in the Department of Agriculture and he wanted to be very certain of their loyalty.

77-54677

RECORDED-102
INDEXED-102

JAN 15 1953

I told [redacted] the above names would be checked as soon as possible and copies of the reports sent to Mr. Benson and Governor [illegible].

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Tolson
Ladd
Nichols
Belmont
Clegg
Glavin
Harbo
Rosen
Tracy
Laughlin
Mohr
Tele. Rm.
Holloman
Gandy

26 JAN 19 1953

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 4:40
DATE 1-15-53
BY [illegible]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

DEC 26 1952

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Laughlin
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

b6
b7C

FBI SALT LAKE CITY 12-26-52 9-50 PM RLB

DIRECTOR URGENT

ATTN ASST DIRECTOR ROSEN

EZRA TAFT BENSON, SI. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE DESIGNEE WHO IS TO BE IN SU TILL JAN. THIRD NEXT TELEPHONED SU OFFICE TODAY REQUESTING INVESTIGATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR PROSPECTIVE APPOINTEES ARTHUR W. HAYCOCK AND CLARENCE M. FERGUSON, WHO ARE BEING CONSIDERED FOR RESPONSIBLE USDA APPOINTMENTS. BENSON STATED PREVIOUS REQUESTS MADE BY HIM DIRECT TO BUREAU, BUT CALLED SU THIS INSTANCE IN INTEREST OF ECONOMY. BENSON REQUESTED TO BE ADVISED WHEN HE COULD EXPECT RESULTS INVESTIGATIONS PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED OF BUREAU AS FOLLOWS --- [redacted]

BENSON ALSO STATED NO LONGER CONSIDERING [redacted] WHOSE NAMES PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED THE BUREAU AND INVESTIGATION NO LONGER NECESSARY THESE TWO. INSTANT REQUEST AND INFORMATION FURNISHED REGARDING EACH AS FOLLOWS ----------

END PAGE ONE

RECORDED-86
INDEXED-86
77-54679-31
EX-101
6 JAN 21 1953

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

56 JAN 26

PAGE TWO

CLARENCE M. FERGUSON, SI. BORN CANADA AND GRADUATED ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE ONTARIO CANADA NINETEEN-TWENTYONE. ATTENDED MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE LANSING MICHIGAN NINETEEN-TWENTYTWO UNTIL NINETEEN-TWENTYEIGHT. EMPLOYED AS TECHNICAL EMPLOYEE USDA COLOMBIA SO. AMERICA NINETEEN-TWENTYEIGHT, POULTRY SPECIALIST NINETEEN-TWENTYNINE TO FORTYEIGHT AND DIRECTOR AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE EXTENSION SERVICE NINETEEN-FORTYEIGHT TO PRESENT OHIO STATE COLLEGE, COLUMBUS OHIO, MARRIED, RESIDENCE COLUMBUS OHIO. FERGUSON BEING CONSIDERED FOR APPOINTMENT ASSISTANT SECRETARY USDA.

END PAGE TWO

do thru job - as rapidly as we can

Da
Al

b6
b7C

ARTHUR W. HAYCOCK, SI. BORN SEPT. FOUR, NINETEEN-SIXTEEN FARMINGTON UTAH AND EDUCATED SU SCHOOLS GRADUATING LATTER DAY SAINTS BUSINESS COLLEGE SU. EMPLOYED AS CLERK QUARTERMASTER OFFICE FORT DOUGLAS UTAH NINETEEN-THIRTYFOUR TO THIRTYFIVE, MISSIONARY CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS HONULULU HAWAII NINETEEN-THIRTYFIVE TO THIRTYSEVEN STENO SALT LAKE CITY TRIBUNE NEWSPAPER NINETEEN- THIRTYSEVEN TO THIRTYEIGHT RESIGNED TO ACCEPT POSITION AS ACCOUNTANT LDS CHURCH NINETEEN THIRTYEIGHT TO FORTYTHREE, ASST SUPT., SALT LAKE CITY UNION DEPOT DRGW-RR NINETEEN-FORTYTHREE TO FORTYFIVE, OFFICE MANAGER IMPROVEMENT ERA MAGAZINE NINETEEN-FORTYFIVE TO FORTYSEVEN, CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY GEORGE ALBERT SMITH DECEASED PRESIDENT LDS CHURCH NINETEEN-FORTYSEVEN TO FIFTYONE, SECRETARY IN OFFICE OF PRESIDENT LDS CHURCH NINETEEN-FIFTYONE TO PRESENT ALL SU. MARRIED, RESIDENT SU FIFTEEN YRS., PRESENTLY RESIDING SIX FIVE THREE RAMBLER DRIVE, SU, ACTIVE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF UTAH AND ACQUAINTED SA-S [redacted] PRESENTLY ASSIGNED SU. HAYCOCK BEING CONSIDERED FOR APPOINTMENT PERSONAL SECRETARY TO BENSON. SU WILL INSTITUTE INVESTIGATION HAYCOCK UACB TWENTYSEVENTH INSTANT. CINCINATTI ADVISED AMSD.

CORNELIUS

END ACK AND DISC

11-02 PM OK FBI WA ELR

V

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

b6
b7C

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Rosen

DATE: December 27, 1952

FROM : H. B. Wood

Tolson
Ladd
Nichols
Belmont
Clegg
Glavin
Harbo
Rosen
Tracy
Mohr
Tele. Rm.
Nease
Gandy

SUBJECT: EZRA TAFT BENSON
SPECIAL ENQUIRY

[redacted]

Reference is made to the teletype dated 12/26/52 from Salt Lake City in this matter in which it is stated that Mr. Benson requested the status of a number of investigations including those on [redacted] Since the Bureau records do not indicate the receipt of the requests for these two investigations, a phone call was made to the Salt Lake City Office at 5:15 P. M. today and SA [redacted] who was on duty in that office, was instructed to have Mr. Benson contacted immediately and endeavor to determine in a discreet manner the correct spelling of the two subjects' names and also the time when the requests for these investigations were made and where and by what method.

A reply was received by teletype giving background data in regard to [redacted] but not answering the questions as to the request for investigation. The Salt Lake City Office was, therefore, recontacted at 10:30 P. M. and Clerk [redacted] was instructed to have the SAC sutel immediately the required information.

At 11:40 P. M. Mr. Cornelius advised telephonically that he had contacted Mr. Benson and the latter stated that according to his recollection he had requested the investigation of [redacted] on December 17, 1952 by long distance telephone call to the Bureau from Atlanta, Ga., at which time he talked to [redacted] of the F. B. I." He stated that he requested the investigation of [redacted] on December 22, 1952 by local phone call to [redacted] in Washington, D. C. Mr. Cornelius stated that Mr. Benson said that he had his records of these requests at his office in Salt Lake City where he would be available on Monday morning. Mr. Cornelius felt that further contacts with Mr. Benson in this regard should be avoided if possible and he was instructed not to contact Benson on Monday as to these investigations unless he heard further from the Bureau.

ADDENDUM (December 28, 1952)

RECORDED-86 77-54679-32
INDEXED-86
JAN 21 1953

Teletypes were sent to Dallas and Springfield ordering investigations concerning [redacted] respectively, in accordance with Mr. Ladd's instructions.

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN [redacted]

Closed 1/14

Closed 1/9

JAN 26 1953

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Tolson
Ladd
Nichols
Belmont
Clegg
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Rosen
Tracy
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Mohr
Winterrowd
Tele. Rm.
Holloman
Gandy

The New Cabinet

Farm Background Equips

file 4 ecks

Mag 1-1

EZRA TAFT

Benson for Agriculture Post

77-54679-A
...T F ...RDED
9. JAN 19 1953

Times-Herald
Wash. Post
Wash. News
Wash. Star
N.Y. Herald Tribune
N.Y. Mirror

Date: JAN 15 1953

6 JAN 26 1953

By George Kennedy

EZRA TAFT BENSON, one of 12 Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints, was superintending the dividing of a stake at Provo, Utah, when he was told that President-elect Eisenhower wanted to see him in New York. A stake in the Mormon Church is the equivalent of a diocese.

There was no question about what to do. He left the division

Eighth of a Series

to others, went to Salt Lake City and took a plane for New York.

"Mr. Benson," Gen. Eisenhower said to him, "you have the confidence of the American rural population to an unusual degree. I want you to be my Secretary of Agriculture."

T. Benson, as his associates call him, was more disturbed than surprised by this.

"Gen. Eisenhower," he said, "you know I was for Taft before the convention."

While he had done no active campaigning, he had lent his name to a "Citizens-for-Taft" movement in Utah.

Mr. Eisenhower said he knew that.

"The honor that has come to me from my church," Mr. Benson said (r[illegible] Council of [illegible]tment to the [illegible], Chu[illegible] appoin[illegible] of the Mor[illegible] Twelve [illegible]lifé), "means more to me than a[illegible]ny position that could be given m[illegible] even he[illegible] coming a member of [illegible]our he[illegible]net."

Gen. Eisenhower said he realized that.

Makes Position Clear.

There followed conversation in which Mr. Benson made sure that the general knew where he stood. Then he said:

"If I am left free to administer this office to restore the dignity of the individual in agriculture and the spiritual values left us by our founding fathers, I accept.

"No man can refuse the President of the United States when he is given an important job to do."

The phrases are high sounding, but he used them. The words between are interpolated because they were reported second-hand. But the general, who outbid his opponent for the farm vote at the plowing contest at Closson, Minn., knew how his appointee stood. The leaders of the Mormon Church are not only against relief payments, they are against price supports. But Mr. Benson will carry out the law.

It was another mission for Ezra Taft Benson, whose great-grandfather and namesake was one of the 12 Apostles of the church who entered the Salt [illegible] Valley in 1847 with Brigham Young.

Mr. Benson had the confidence of the rural population because of his work from 1939 to 1943 as executive secretary of the National Council of Farmer Co-operatives.

Starts Work Quickly.

He set out on his mission almost immediately. The conversation reported above occurred on the Monday before Thanksgiving. He returned to Salt Lake and prepared to revisit America, but the death of an associate delayed him a little. He went to the funeral on a Monday. On Tuesday he was in Los Angeles.

He saw 50 agricultural leaders on that day and conferred with many of them personally, as he likes to do. One of them was the president and general manager of Sunkist, the largest co-operative in the world. He saw the heads of the Farm Bureau and the Grange, the poultry producers and the poultry processors, the growers of the tender greens, lettuce, spinach and broccoli; the walnut people, the grape growers, and the big cotton growers. California has one of the biggest cotton crops in the Nation.

He was re-acquainting himself with agriculture and its problems. He was asking what should be done. And also in the Los Angeles meetings, which were repeated all over the country, he was recruiting for the new department he will head.

Let no one be confused by the term co-operative. There are co-operative groups, mostly consumer co-operatives, whose leaders are termed liberals by their friends and radicals by their opponents. But the big organization he managed for four years is the most conservative element in agriculture; more conservative than the reconstituted Farm Bureau.

Outs Come Back In.

His appointment makes o[illegible] thing certain. The outs—t[illegible] conservative elements of t[illegible] Farm Bureau, the Grange an[illegible] the co-operatives—are going [illegible] be in. The ins, the men wh[illegible] made such big changes in Ame[illegible]ican rural life under Henry Wal[illegible]lace and his successors, are goin[illegible] to be out.

Mr. Benson next went to San Francisco, then to Seattle. He wired ahead to a few leaders. They brought together the people they felt should see the new Secretary of Agriculture.

At Los Angeles he was taking notes in longhand on all his interviews. He soon found he had to have secretarial help and got it. When he started out he gave no particular thought to expense. In the Mormon Church when a man goes on a mission those things are taken care of. His faith in that was quickly justified. Early in his travels he was notified that the Republican National Committee would pay all expenses of the designated cabinet officers in the matter of preparing to take over their jobs.

He went to his native Idaho. There had been a terrific blizzard but his wife had been able to get there from Salt Lake and brothers and sisters and cousins from the beet and potato valleys. Farm leaders from as far away as Texas managed to make it, too. His faith in his mission was justified in that.

He returned to Salt Lake,

where writers for the farm journals and magazines were waiting for him, plus radio reporters and TV technicians.

He went to Chicago where he saw farm leaders of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Then Sees Brannan.

Next he came to Washington where he had a one-hour visit with the man he is to succeed, Charles F. Brannan. Then he went to Atlanta. He avoided talking to regional officials of the department on the trip, which made for some difficulties. Some of them did not understand that it was a matter of protocol. He was not Secretary of Agriculture yet.

He returned to Salt Lake and then came back to Washington. He arrived here on January 5. An apartment had been obtained for him at the Westchester and an office set up for him in the World Center Building, the modern structure housing the Pan American Airways ticket office at Sixteenth and K streets N. W., diagonally across from the Statler Hotel.

It was there he was interviewed at 9 p.m. He had been arriving at the office at 8 a.m. and leaving about 10:30 p.m.

That temporary office was a striking indication of how he is going about his job. There was a room with a long directors' table with ashtrays filled by conferees at meetings during the day. Mr. Benson does not smoke; but he provides for those who do. There was a reception room and three offices. Two young women were working in the open office. One was handling long-distance calls, the other was typing. Dr. Karl D. Butler of Ithaca, N. Y., former research director of the American Institute of Co-operation, was at the telephone in the office at the left. While the interviewer waited he gathered that Mr. Benson was confering with some one in the office at the right.

Former Aide Arrives.

Every desk had a dictaphone and numerous filing cabinets were already in use. A young man named Babel arrived. He had just driven from Salt Lake City. He had been with Mr. Benson on his postwar mission to Europe for the church in 1946, and is going to assist him again. There were 6,000 Mormons in Great Britain, he said, and about 25,000 on the continent. Mr. Benson's tour had taken him to Poland and other countries now behind the Iron Curtain. In every country, the young man said, Mr. Benson had found out all he could about the conditions of agriculture. The church kept sending over considerable amounts of food. Mr. Benson had done his best to distribute them in a manner which would help people help themselves.

He was able to distribute quantities of seed and suggest unusual plantings during the crisis. For instance, members of the church in Holland used the shoulders of the highways to grow potatoes with great success. When it was suggested that the Germans had greater need for the potatoes they were reluctant at first. They had suffered much from the Germans. But, if that was what should be done, they would do it. They sent 75 tons of potatoes to Germany. The next year, without any suggestion, they sent the Germans a larger quantity of potatoes and some pork products.

The conference in Mr. Benson's office ended and the interviewer was ushered in. Ezra Benson is a tall man. His frequent smile relieves what would otherwise be a somewhat severe appearance. His thinning straight hair is combed sleekly back and his brow is evidently higher than it was in his youth. His personality seems to combine a lot of qualities, seriousness, simplicity, sincerity, and impressive maturity. He is 53, but he seemed to be a generation older.

What a Mission Means.

The reporter soon found out what embarking on a mission means to Ezra Benson. He talked about his birthplace farm in the Cash Valley, Southern Idaho.

He was the oldest of 11 children. His father had purchased a 40-acre farm—an irrigated farm for beet and potato farming—in the valley. He built a two-room house with boards from timber felled in the canyons of the Wasatch range which closed the little valley—it was about 50 miles long and 25 miles wide. His mother made the rugs for the house before they moved in. All 11 children were born in one room. As the family increased the father added to the house, a lean-to at the rear, another room to one side.

His father and mother had attended Mormon academies which gave them the equivalent of the first year or two of high school. Every one of the 11 children, seven boys and four girls, went through college. Ten of them are living today.

The irrigation was direct from the mountain streams. The big cash crop—and the big work crop—was the sugar beets.

"Did you ever see them thinning a field of beets?" he asked. "You have a wide bladed hoe with a handle about 8 inches long."

Thins Imaginary Row.

He got up from his desk and started thinning an imaginary row of beets on the office floor. He was quite agile about it, able to bend almost double despite a middle-aged thickness at the midriff. He worked fast as he went along the row sliding his feet sideways.

"When I was 16" he said, "I thinned a field of beets for a neighbor in one day—not an eight-hour day, sunup to sundown. He was a Mormon. Most of the people in the valley were. He gave me two $5 gold pieces and two silver dollars. I have never felt so wealthy in my life."

Beside the beets and potatoes, they grew a canning crop, usually green peas. His father bought a dry farm up in the canyon where they grew wheat. They had 15 cows, Holsteins, and they sold the milk to a condensing plant. But when it came his turn to run the farm with his brothers they put in bottling machinery and sold the milk in Preston, the nearby county seat.

They had about 250 chickens and traded eggs for groceries at the general store in Whitney, which was only about a mile from the farm. They also raised a dozen or so hogs a season and slaughtered one for "winter meat."

"For a family of 11 children?" he was asked.

"We didn't eat much meat."

he said. "But we had a good diet with poultry and eggs and milk."

Chosen for Mission.

It was when Ezra was 13 and there were six other children and another on the way that his father was selected to go on a mission. The elder Benson had preached at times in the little church at Whitney, built of stones hauled from the mountains. All the families in the valley attended, including the few non-Mormons.

But it was not for his eloquence that he was selected. The church has no paid ministry and members are chosen for mission for their evident faith, earnestness and virtue.

Arrangements were made. A young Mormon couple was given one of the rooms of the house on a rental basis. The young man was to work the farm on shares. Ezra's mother took care of the cows and the chickens and the kitchen garden with the help of her children.

Father was away for two years. His mission was to Chicago and industrial Northern Indiana. He wrote regularly.

"Some of the happiest moments of my life," he said, "were spent sitting in the family circle and listening to mother read father's letters."

When father returned it was like the soldier of this day home from war. There was an infant near the age of 2 whom he had never seen.

Rode Horse to School.

Young Ezra rode a horse to high school, a Mormon academy in Preston, 2½ miles away. When his younger brothers and sisters joined him, they used a buggy and in winter a cutter. The last was the most fun.

It was a happy life, as he recounted it. There was a tennis court at Whitney and a Boy Scout troop. Ezra joined the Scouts. In young manhood he was a scoutmaster and he is now a member of the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America.

It was a beautiful valley where they lived. The Wasatch Mountains rise to heights of almost two miles on either side. There was marvelous fishing in the canyon streams and in the fall the boys hunted deer. Once in a great while they got one.

And the farming was fun, too.

"What encouraged us most," he said, "was when I and my brothers came home from agricultural college. Our father was ready to try anything new we suggested, whether it was a rotation of crops or a new ration for the poultry or the cows.

"That's the point where a lot of young fellows, whose fathers won't go along with them, get discouraged and quit."

Buys More Land.

Father bought another 40 acres of irrigated land. The farm grew with the family. But it was a small economic unit on which to send 11 children through college. It was in this way: As the children came of age they worked the farm and went to school in turns. One of them would go to college for one semester then return to the farm and let the next one go to school—a co-operative enterprise.

Mr. Benson had attended Utah State Agriculture College for three years, had reached his majority and was courting Miss Flora Smith Amussen, when he was selected for his first mission. It was the British Isles. He spent 30 months there spreading the doctrine that revelation did not end with the apocalypse. He renewed his courtship when he came back, but she was selected for a mission to California for 20 months. They were married in 1926 and both went to the Iowa State College, where he had a scholarship. He got his M. S. in agricultural economics in 1927. They now have six children.

His education did not end in college. He was county agent in his home county. He was a marketing specialist for the State university extension service in

1929 and 1930 when he helped make the Idaho potato famous. He became secretary to the Idaho Co-operative Council in 1933 and did graduate work in agriculture at the University of California in 1937-8.

In the spring of 1939 he was named executive secretary of the National Council of Farmer Co-operatives. The farmer co-operatives are big business. Their annual volume is approaching $10 billion a year. They have about 7 million members. One of them, the Consumers' Co-operative Association, has a $15 million nitrogen fertilizer plant under construction and oil wells, pipelines and a refinery in operation. Sunkist in California is one of the Nation's biggest advertisers. Southern States Co-operative is one of this region's biggest merchandisers.

Second Mission After War.

Mr. Benson was made one of the 12 Apostles, the ruling body of his church, in 1943. He went on his second mission to Europe after the war. His church position did not end his interest in agriculture and co-operatives. He has been the principal speaker at the annual meetings of the American Institute of Co-operation in recent years.

He clearly outlined his ideas in a talk before the Institute at Madison, Wisc., in August, 1949.

"Our rural people," he said, "are today the strongest bulwark we have against all that is aimed not only at weakening, but at the very destruction of our way of life. . .

"It seems that man must get his feet into the soil to remain sane. . .

"Even in our country freedom has already been abridged. . .

"We will meet the challenge of those individuals and groups who have been teaching our people to depend on Government instead of relying on themselves."

Tomorrow: George M. Humphrey, Secretary of the Treasury.

GEN EISENHOWER IS PLEASED WITH HIS CHOICE—The President-elect and Mr. Benson reached an agreement on high policy under which the Department of Agriculture would be administered soon after Mr. Benson was chosen for the cabinet post.

ANOTHER MISSION FOR MR. BENSON—Ezra Taft Benson of Salt Lake City, Utah, a leading churchman and expert on farm co-operatives, is already preparing for his new job as Secretary of Agriculture in President-elect Eisenhower's administration.

WIFE OF NEW CABINET OFFICER—Mrs. Benson, the former Flora Smith Amussen, and her husband both went to Iowa State College. They were married in 1926, a year before Mr. Benson received his M. S. degree in agriculture. They have six children.

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Laughlin _____
Mohr _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Rm. _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____
_____

Times-Herald _____
Wash. Post _____
Wash. News _____
Wash. Star _____
N.Y. Herald Tribune _____
N.Y. Mirror _____

_____ _____

Date: _____

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

b6
b7C

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

DATE: December 31, 1952

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT:

Tolson
Ladd
Clegg
Glavin
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Harbo
Belmont
Mohr
Tele. Room

Last week when I called Ezra Taft Benson to inquire whether [redacted] had withdrawn, Mr. Benson stated he had considerable pressure from the Eisenhower organization to complete his staff at the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Benson wondered if we could telephone him when the investigations were completed. I told him that I doubted if we could do this. He then asked if we could wire him if there is no derogatory information and state merely that a letter follows. I told him we would handle these investigations as rapidly as we could and keep him informed.

I then checked with the Director and he stated that we could not be put in a position of evaluating the investigations. We would have to send him air mail letters.

It is suggested that the investigations requested by Mr. Benson be carried out as expeditiously as possible.

LBN:arm

RECORDED-17
INDEXED
EX. - 107
77-54679-33
RECORDED
JAN 23 1953

26 JAN 28 1953

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

b6
b7C

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

DATE: January 22, 1953

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT: [redacted] SPECIAL INQUIRY

EZRA TAFT BENSON

Tolson
Ladd
Nichols
Belmont
Clegg
Glavin
Harbo
Rosen
Tracy
Laughlin
Mohr
Winterrowd
Tele. Rm.
Holloman

While talking to Secretary Benson of the Agriculture Department, he stated we could discontinue our investigation on [redacted] inasmuch as he is now definitely out of the picture. I told him we would discontinue this investigation immediately.

Mr. Benson stated he wanted to take this opportunity of expressing his appreciation and commendation of the Bureau for the splendid job which it had done in handling the investigations which he had requested. He was apologetic about the time and hopes his persistence was understood. I told him definitely we understood thoroughly; that the Director was very glad to be of assistance. He asked that we call on him if at any time he can be of service.

cc: Mr. Ladd
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Callan

LBN:MP

RECORDED - 51 77-54679-34

EX-115

JAN 28 1953

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 77-55781

26 FEB 5 1953

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Tolson
Ladd
Nichols
Belmont
Clegg
Glavin
Harbo
Rosen
Tracy
Gearty
Mohr
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Sizoo
Miss Gandy

TO : MR. D. M. LADD

DATE: November 20, 1953

FROM : A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: EZRA TAFT BENSON
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

While Mr. Roach was discussing other matters with Under Secretary of State Smith this afternoon (11-20-53), Smith commented in passing that the President is a little "teed-off" with Secretary of Agriculture Benson, the reason for this being, according to Smith, that Benson has not been successful in quieting the farmers, cattlemen, dairymen, and Capitol Hill; further, that the Department of State has just received a protest from the Canadian Government that Benson announced that henceforth the Canadians must cut down on their exportation of oats to the United States. Concerning this protest the Canadians had advised, "We will discontinue our export of oats completely but must ask that the Americans discontinue their export to Canada of all fruits and vegetables."

According to Smith, things are getting more confused all the time. The northern states' grain growers are demanding less Canadian imports, while the southern fruit and vegetable growers are complaining that their market in Canada is being shut off. Smith states that the matter has now been passed to the White House and that the President is unhappy about the whole thing. Smith commented that it looks like Benson will be the "fall guy."

ACTION:

None. For your information.

RRR:lw

RECORDED - 5

EX. - 101

77-54679-35

25 NOV 24 1953

LIAISON

20 DEC 7 1953

0-19 (Rev. 9-7-56)

b6
b7C

Tolson
Nichols
Boardman
Belmont
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
Nease
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

Proxmire Asks Ouster Of Benson

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12 (UP).—Sen. William Proxmire, D., Wis., urged President Eisenhower today to oust Agriculture Secretary Ezra Taft Benson.

Mr. Benson should be replaced "immediately with someone who will act promptly and with determination to raise farmers' income to a fair level," he said.

Sen. Proxmire was a surprise Democratic winner over former Republican Gov. Walter Kohler in a special election Aug. 27 to fill the seat of the late Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy.

He wired the President that his two-to-one victory was an "unmistakable repudiation of Secretary Benson and the farm policies which he has advocated."

Wash. Post and Times Herald
Wash. News
Wash. Star
N. Y. Herald Tribune
N. Y. Journal-American
N. Y. Mirror
N. Y. Daily News
N. Y. Times
Daily Worker
The Worker
New Leader

Date SEP 12 1957

INDEXED - 25
EX-131

77-54679

NOT RECORDED
141 SEP 17 1957

65 SEP 20 1957

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE: January 9, 1958

FROM : Mr. R. R. Roach

SUBJECT: EZRA TAFT BENSON
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

Tolson
Nichols
Boardman
Belmont
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
Nease
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

b6
b7C

[redacted] D.C. Washington industrial [redacted] and [redacted] Senator Bourke B. Hickenlooper (Republican - Iowa), called Liaison Agent [redacted] on January 9, 1958. [redacted] stated he felt the Director would be interested in the following information.

b6
b7C
b7D

[redacted]

ACTION:

For information.

b6
b7C

CWB:bjt
(6)

1 - Mr. Nease
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - [redacted]
1 - Liaison Section
1 - [redacted]

b6
b7C

RECORDED - 88
INDEXED 88

77-54679-36

EX-131

JAN 14 1958

61 JAN 17 1958

0-19 (Rev. 10-29-57)

4

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Ike Steadfastly Retains Benson

By Drew Pearson

D-9

Republican leaders have tried everything short of tar and feathers to force Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson to resign, but, like the man who came to dinner, he has refused to take the hint.

Pearson

The trouble is that President Eisenhower won't ask for his resignation, and Benson apparently won't offer it. The President, who admires Benson's spiritual qualities, doesn't want to create an "unpleasant situation" by showing him the door.

The men around Ike, including both Vice President Dick Nixon and Assistant President Sherman Adams, are less sensitive. They have been trying their best to shove the unwanted Secretary out the nearest exit.

But like the boulders of his native Rocky Mountains, Benson isn't easy to budge. He is carrying out his farm program with the zeal of a religious crusade, and looks upon those who disagree with him as men too weak to resist political temptations.

Meanwhile, here is the story of the backstage manipulations to get rid of him:

South Dakota's plump, plaintive Sen. Karl Mundt, speaking for farm-state Republicans, called on Adams last Nov. 22 to demand Benson's removal. It was the only way, Mundt warned, to prevent a Republican calamity at the polls in 1958.

Adams, who needed no convincing, promised: "Benson will be out of the Cabinet by Christmas."

No Christmas Present

But Santa Claus came and went, leaving no new Secretary of Agriculture in the GOP stocking.

Kansas' kindly Sen. Frank Carlson, who kept at Ike's elbow throughout the 1952 campaign and could have taken the Agriculture post for himself, made repeated visits to the White House urging Benson's dismissal. Vice President Nixon was also active behind the scenes, trying to send Benson back to Utah.

Finally Sen. Ed Thye, a Minnesota farmer, wrote an urgent letter to Eisenhower requesting an appointment. Thye intended to lay it on the line with the President and tell him either Benson would have to go or dozens of good Republicans would be defeated in farm areas. Thye also planned to ask the President to stop Benson from dropping dairy support prices on April 1.

The day before his presidential appointment, Thye had lunch with Sherman Adams to discuss strategy. Thye, who is running for reelection in Minnesota this year, complained that his seat was in peril because of Benson.

"You tell me how to get rid of him," said Adams. "The President will accept his resignation if he gives it. But Benson is not making the offer, and Ike isn't going to ask for it because he doesn't want an unpleasant situation."

Soft-Hearted Ed

When Thye called on the President next day, Adams, Nixon and several GOP Senators who knew his mission crossed their fingers.

Ike greeted the big Minnesotan with a booming: "How are you, Ed?"

"Mr. President," Thye replied, "I have a big job on my hands this fall."

"I hope you are reelected," Ike said. "You are the kind of Republican we need. You are not too far over on the left, and you are not too far on the right."

This was the opening for Thye to bring up the Benson problem, but he suddenly got cold feet. Instead, he pulled out a set of figures and tried to prove to the President that dairy support prices should not be lowered from $3.25 to $3.00 a hundredweight on April 1.

"I don't want to hurt the farmers," promised the President. "I will give this my personal attention."

Thye left without mentioning Benson's name. Later he explained lamely to his GOP colleagues that he didn't want to drag personalities into it. Knowing the President's dislike for mixing personalities with issues, Thye decided to stick to the dairy question.

The following Monday, Secretary Benson slipped into the White House through a side door to avoid reporters. He handed the President a different set of figures on dairy prices.

"If you yield to the dairy people, the wheat, corn, cotton and feed-grain people will also want higher supports," Benson argued.

He claimed there was growing sentiment in Congress for his farm program. Following his brutal cross-examination by the Senate Agriculture Committee, Benson told the President he had received 244 letters personally addressed to him. Of these, he said, 180 were friendly and favorable.

"And the favorable letters," he added, "were handwritten."

When Benson walked out, he was still Secretary of Agriculture and his farm program was still the official position of the Eisenhower Administration.

(Copyright, 1958, Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

Drew Pearson will predict whether FCC Commissioner Mack will lose his job, over WTOP Radio at 6:45 p. m. today.

Tolson ✓
Boardman ✓
Belmont ✓
Mohr
Nease
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
Clayton
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

Wash. Post and Times Herald D-9
Wash. News
Wash. Star
N. Y. Herald Tribune
N. Y. Journal-American
N. Y. Mirror
N. Y. Daily News
N. Y. Times
Daily Worker
The Worker
New Leader

Date FEB 22 1958

177-34679-17

NOT RECORDED
141 FEB 26 1958

14 62

64 FEB 27 1958

EZRA TAFT BENSON
1907 QUINCY STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 11, D. C.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Mr. W.C.Sullivan
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

December 7, 1959

Dear Director Hoover:

My husband greatly appreciated your prayerful wishes and thoughtfulness in remembering him. He asked me to send you his sincere thanks.

Sincerely yours,

Flora A. Benson

(Mrs. Ezra Taft Benson)

DC UTAH

EZRA TAFT BENSON

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

77-54679-37

REC-24

DEC 11 1959

53 DEC 16 1959

FD-36 (Rev. 12-13-56)

FBI

Date: 9/18/62

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (PERSONAL ATTENTION)

FROM: SAC, SALT LAKE CITY (80-0)

RE: EZRA TAFT BENSON
INFORMATION CONCERNING

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INTERNAL SECURITY

#220504
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 6-12-86 BY SP4ELW/MLE

On 9/18/62 I received a call from the Honorable EZRA TAFT BENSON, former Secretary of Agriculture in the Eisenhower administration, who is one of the Council of Twelve, the governing body of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) (Mormon). Mr. BENSON requested an appointment with me to discuss the following matter:

He is concerned about Communism and what he terms Socialism in the United States and feels that the American people are not fully aware of its dangers. He feels that the Director of the FBI for many years has been warning the public about the menace of Communism and he believes that the Director is the foremost authority on this menace today.

Mr. BENSON states he has conducted considerable research concerning the John Birch Society and has found nothing actually wrong with its activities and purposes. He mentioned that ROBERT H. WELCH, President of the Society, had made some "foolish" remarks in some letters in the past concerning President EISENHOWER, Dr. MILTON EISENHOWER and one or two other Government officials, but that to a large extent these statements by WELCH had been misconstrued in that WELCH actually meant that President EISENHOWER had been "used" by others in formulating policies that were not severe enough against Communism.

58 OCT 2 1962

3 - Bureau (AM) (REGISTERED)
2 - Salt Lake City
(1 - 80-0)
LB:FR (1 - 100-9556)
(5)

REC-26 77-54679-39

Jones to DeLoach memo 9-26-62

13 SEP 26 1962

Approved: Sent M Per
Special Agent in Charge XEROX

SEP 27 1962

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 62-104401

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b7C

FD-36 (Rev. 12-13-56)

FBI

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via _____ _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

SU 80-0

Mr. BENSON stated he knew many leading citizens who were members of the Birch Society and regarded them as patriotic and great Americans. He stated he is aware of the controversies concerning this society, but that he feels most people do not actually know the true aims of the Society in combating Communism and Socialism. He mentioned that even the Deseret News and Telegram (owned by the LDS Church) had published an editorial criticizing the John Birch Society and that he, BENSON, honestly felt the newspaper did not fully understand the purpose of the Society.

BENSON has reached the conclusion the Society is doing a lot of good in combating Communism and feels that it is patriotic in its motives. He related in confidence that [redacted] has been approached by the Birch Society to be their representative in Utah and surrounding states; that the Society has no "coordinator" in Utah and that activities are handled by the coordinator at Denver. [redacted] has been offered the position of "coordinator" in western states, but has not yet discussed his decision with [redacted] Mr. BENSON states he knows that [redacted] will consult with him soon concerning his opinion about becoming affiliated with the Birch Society. BENSON stated he realized the FBI does not sanction or endorse any group, but he wanted to know off-the-record how the FBI feels about the Birch Society and whether or not it has been investigated and any conclusions reached.

b6
b7C

I informed Mr. BENSON that of course we were purely a fact-finding agency and that he was correct in his comment that the FBI does not have the authority to comment or evaluate the character or integrity of any person or organization; that the FBI is interested only in subversive elements, particularly those that might attempt to infiltrate or take over some organization purely for subversive purposes. I informed him off-the-record in

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

FD-36 (Rev. 12-13-56)

FBI

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via _____ _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

SU 80-0

response to his direct question that to my knowledge the FBI has not investigated the John Birch Society as such in this area, but that of course it would have to be his own decision concerning any affiliation with the Society or any other group. Mr. BENSON stated he realized this but that he appreciated my conferring with him at his request.

It is to be noted that [redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted] makes a large number of speeches. I have not heard him but understand that he is a capable speaker and strongly opposes Communism and Socialism in his remarks. The BENSON family is highly regarded in church circles in this area, and [redacted] is one of the highest ranking LDS Church officials. Mr. BENSON had just received from the Publisher a copy of the Director's new book, "A Study of Communism," which he had on his desk and which probably prompted his contacting me about the above matter.

Mr. BENSON mentioned that he would be on a trip in the eastern part of the United States within the next few days, and that he might personally contact the Director to confer with him about the menace of Communism and the role of the Birch Society.

The above is furnished to the Director since he might be contacted in the next few days by Mr. BENSON, who is a strong admirer of the Director's.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

b6
b7C

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 9-21-62

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: EZRA TAFT BENSON
FORMER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

BACKGROUND:

By airtel dated 9-18-62, SAC, Salt Lake City advised that on that date he had received a call from former Secretary Benson, who is on the Governing Board of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Benson stated he was concerned about communism and he feels that the Director is the foremost authority on this subject. He indicated he had conducted considerable research concerning the John Birch Society and has found nothing actually wrong with its activities and pruposes other than the fact that Robert H. Welch has made some foolish remarks regarding high Government officials. He further believes that Welch's remarks have been to some extent misconstrued. He has reached the conclusion that the Society is doing a lot of good in combating communism and feels that it is patriotic in its motives. He related in confidence that [redacted] has been approached by the Birch Society to be their representative in Utah and surrounding states. He has been offered the position of "coordinator" in western states, but has not yet discussed his decision with [redacted] Benson realizes the FBI does not sanction or endorse any group, but he wanted to know off-the-record how the FBI feels about the Birch Society and whether it has been investigated or any conclusions reached. The SAC informed Benson off-the-record in response to his question that to the SAC's knowledge the FBI has not investigated the Birch Society as such in the Salt Lake City area, but that any affiliation with the Society would have to be Benson's decision.

Benson mentioned to the SAC that he would be on a trip in the eastern part of the United States within the next few days and that he might personally contact the Director to confer with him about the menace of communism and the role of the Birch Society. There is set forth below a brief resume of pertinent data in Bufiles concerning our relations with Benson.

REC-25

EX-100

77-54677-40

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Benson was born 8-4-99 in Whitney, Idaho, and was graduated from Brigham Young University in 1926 with a B.S. degree. Benson was Secretary of Agriculture from 1953 to 1961 under the Eisenhower Administration. As indicated previously, he is on the Governing Board of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

INFORMATION IN BUFILES:

[redacted]

There are numerous references in the files to Benson and in the interest of expediency his main file and recent references were reviewed. We investigated

53 OCT 3 1962

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Miss Holmes
ELC:tmf (5)

b6
b7C

Benson in November, 1952, at the request of President-elect Eisenhower, and no derogatory information was developed. Benson is on the Special Correspondents' List, and we have exchanged considerable cordial correspondence with him. Benson has received copies of "Masters of Deceit" and "The FBI Story" autographed by the Director, and he was sent a copy of the Director's new book, "A Study of Communism," with the Director's personal card. He requested to see the Director on 9/18-19/61 by telegram, but was advised that due to prior commitments, the Director could not see him on those dates. Mr. DeLoach talked with Benson on 9-18-61, and Benson wanted the Director to address the "All-American Society," an anticommunist group, where [redacted] was an employee. This invitation was subsequently declined. It is noted that we have declined to furnish Bureau reprint material to the "All-American Society" in view of the fact that its stated aims are open to a great deal of controversy, and we have received mail from members of this Society making wild remarks against individuals who question the objectives of the group.

In April, 1962, Benson's invitation for the Director to address the Annual World Conference of Mormons which was to meet 4/6-8/62 was declined by the Director in view of prior commitments.

An autographed copy of Benson's book entitled "The Red Carpet" was sent to the Director on 4-18-62 and was acknowledged. A review of the book reveals that the theme is that the American people in their search for economic security have gradually permitted the Federal Government to take away their individual freedoms and as a result, it has developed a type of creeping socialism, characterized by a concentration of power in the Federal Government, the welfare state, and unsound financial policies which encourage an ever-increasing public debt and inflation. While Benson stressed the threat of internal communism, he also pointed out that "I do not feel the small, hard-core of subversives in America so much as I do those who do not see the danger to freedom that is inherent in more and more centralization of power in Government." He made numerous favorable references to the Director in the book and quotes extensively from "Masters of Deceit" as well as from articles and speeches by the Director. Of course, in view of Benson's previous position as Secretary of Agriculture, his name has been mentioned in recent months as a result of the [redacted] case.

According to SAC, Salt Lake City, [redacted] makes a large number of speeches and strongly opposes communism and socialism in his remarks. [redacted] is also on the Special Correspondents' List. [redacted] is a graduate of George Washington Law School, and, [redacted] is a great admirer of the Bureau.

John Birch Society

There are numerous references in Bufiles to the John Birch Society and its anticommunist activities are well known. It has received much prominence in the news in

recent years and is quite controversial. It was founded in December, 1958, in Indianapolis, Indiana, by Robert H. Welch, Jr., a retired candy manufacturer. It is incorporated under the laws of the State of Massachusetts and has chapters throughout the United States. It is probably the most publicized right-wing extremist group in the country. We have not conducted an investigation of the Society or its founder.

RECOMMENDATION:

That should former Secretary Benson contact the Director's Office for an appointment, the Director's absence be explained and he be referred to someone in your office in view of the fact that he appears to want to discuss at length the John Birch Society which group he has apparently concluded is all right.

I will handle -

4-572 (Rev. 7-18-63)
OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27
5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : The Director

DATE: 3-15-67

FROM : N. P. Callahan

SUBJECT: The Congressional Record

b6
b7C

Pages 23004-23008. Senator Thurmond, (R) South Carolina, stated "the Honorable Ezra Taft Benson is known as one of the most distinguished moral leaders of this Nation. A great churchman and a great statesman, he has served both God and country with equal ardor. - - - - In his recent address, "Trade and Treason," he ranges far beyond the narrow economic considerations or trading with the enemy, to consider the philosophical significance of our actions. He says 'we are betraying the intellectual and moral heritage of the West.' He included Benson's address in the Record which in part states: "As Americans, lovers of freedom and high moral principles, we are face to face with the greatest evil in this world and the greatest threat to all we hold dear. Consider the following shocking facts. Since World War II the Communists have brought under bondage—enslaved—on the average approximately 6,000 persons per hour, 144,000 per day, 52,000,000 per year—every hour of every day of every year since 1945. - - - -J. Edgar Hoover, the best informed man in government on the Socialist-Communist Conspiracy stated: '- - -we must now face the harsh truth that the objectives of communism are being steadily advanced because many of us do not readily recognize the means used to advance them ---No one who truly understands what it really is can be taken in by it. Yet the individual is handicapped by coming face to face with a conspiracy so monstrous he cannot believe it exists. The American mind simply has not come to a realization of the evil which has been introduced into our midst.' - - - -It may shock you to learn that the first communist cell in government, so far we know, was organized in the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the early 1930's. John Abt was there. It was John Abt whom Oswald, the accused assassin of President Kennedy, requested for his attorney. - - - -Consider with me the following 12 significant and sobering questions: 1. Would you have been concerned if, during World War II, a Nazi had murdered our President right here in our own country? Yet, a Communist, Lee Harvey Oswald, who maintained contact with Party headquarters in New York, murdered President Kennedy."

77-54677-41

NOT RECORDED

In the original of a memorandum captioned and dated as above, the Congressional Record for 3-14-67 was reviewed and pertinent items were marked for the Director's attention. This form has been prepared in order that portions of a copy of the original memorandum may be clipped, mounted, and placed in appropriate Bureau case or subject matter files.

ORIGINAL FI

67 MAR 30 1967

JUL 26 1989

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

July 24, 1989

b6
b7C

EZRA TAFT BENSON

Captioned individual, who you advised was born on August 4, 1899, in Whitney, Idaho, was the subject of a favorable applicant investigation by the FBI in 1952. Based on Mr. Benson's age, no check was conducted in the FBI Identification Division.

1 - [redacted] Room 4371
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
77-54679

PJL:efk (5)

NOTE: Per request from C. Boyden Gray, Counsel to the President, at the White House (award).

77-54679-42

DELIVERED TO LIAISON
DATE 7-24-89

Exec AD Inv. ___
Exec AD Adm. ___
Exec AD LES ___
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs. ___
Crim. Inv. ___
Ident. ___
Intell. ___
Laboratory ___
Legal Coun. ___
Plan. & Insp. ___
Rec. Mgnt. ___
Tech. Servs. ___
Training ___
Public Affs. Off. ___
Telephone Rm. ___
Dir's Sec'y ___

MAIL ROOM ☐

JUL 26 1989

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 21, 1989

(Date)

TO: FBI, LIAISON

FROM: C. BOYDEN GRAY

SUBJECT: FBI Investigations

Subject's Name BENSON, EZRA TAFT

Date of Birth 8/4/99 Place of Birth Whitney, ID

Present Address Salt Lake City, UT

We request:

_____ Copy of Previous Report

X Name Check

_____ Expanded Name Check

_____ Full Field Investigation

_____ Limited Update

_____ Other

The person named above is being considered for:

_____ White House Staff Position

_____ Presidential Appointment

X Award

Attachments:

_____ SF 86

_____ SF 87, Fingerprint Card

_____ SF 86, Supplement

Remarks/Special Instructions:

PLEASE EXPEDITE

In response to your request there are attached 1 memo ~~reports~~ which may relate to the subject of your inquiry.

4-22 (Rev. 9-22-87)

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records/Operations Sections

b6
b7C

FR UTD _____, 19____

- ☐ Name Searching Unit, 4989, TL# 121
- ☐ Service Unit, 4654, TL# 225
- ☐ Special File Room, 5991, TL# 122
- ☐ Forward to File Review, 5447, TL# 143
- ☐ Attention [redacted]
- ☐ Return to [redacted] Room, TL# , Ext.

Scope of Search: (Check One)

- ☐ Automated Data Base - 5 & 20
- ☐ Automated Data Base - 5 & 30
- ☑ Unrestricted (ADB & Inactive Index)

Type of Search Requested:

- ☑ All References (Security & Criminal)
- ☐ Security Search
- ☐ Criminal Search
- ☐ Main _____ References Only

Special Instructions:

- ☐ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
- ☐ Buildup ☐ Variations
- ☐ Restricted to Locality of _____

Subject BENSON, EZRA THFT
AKA(s) _____

Birthdate & Place 8-4-99 Whitney, ID.
SSAN _____
Localities _____

R# _____ Date 7/21 Searcher Initials [illegible]
Prod. _____

	File Number Serial	Ident	ADB	Inactive	Date of Ref M/
	UTD 77-54679				1/1/74
	77-54679 SUB 1953				
	94-38[illegible]13				
	140-0-93142 GP49				
	197-328				
	87-95519				9/15/87
	62-60537-31980				
	62-107261-46-52 EP28				
	94-69349-6				
	190-51858-1				
	EZRA T.				too old
	9-29559				
	9-38090				
	BENSON, E. T. (VAR)				
	44-0-26438				

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Numerous Reference Search Slip

FR UTD

Subject BENSON, EZRA THFT

R# Date 7/21 Searcher Initials 1335

Prod.

	File Number Serial	Ident	ADB	Inactive	Date of Ref M/Y
	EZRA T. MRS. (REL)				
M.	62-97308-200				
	BENSON, EZ (VAR)				
	SI				

FBI/DOJ